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Remarks

Claims 44, 45, 55, 56 and 58 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 16 and 54 have been amended to more particularly and distinctly claim the invention, although this amendment was not requested by the Examiners (see below). Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least at page 4, lines 12-14, page 5, lines 20-21 and page 14, lines 23-25, and in the claims as originally filed.

Claims 59 and 60 have been added. Support for these claims can be found in claim 54 as originally filed.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 16, 50-54, 57, 59 and 60 are currently pending.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants reserve the right the right to pursue the subject matter of the originally filed claims in a continuing application.

Telephone Interview with the Examiner

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Haddad and Chan for the opportunity to conduct a telephone interview on February 10, 2004. Applicants' attorneys are particularly grateful for the additional time afforded during the interview. During that interview, the outstanding enablement rejection was discussed. The Examiners agreed with Applicants' attorneys that the post-filing data presented in previous responses establishes the correlation of the in vitro assays presented in the specification and the in vivo claimed methods. The Examiners agreed to withdraw the present enablement rejection.

The Examiners raised a new issue, questioning enablement of claims 44, 45 and 58. Applicants' attorneys expressed the concern that a new issue was being raised at such a late stage in prosecution. Nevertheless, Applicants' attorneys proposed cancellation of claims 44, 45 and 58 to expedite prosecution, reserving the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

The Examiners proposed limiting claim 16 to the Markush group of integrin and cadherin because the remaining Markush group members of carbohydrate and immunoglobulin family member had not been searched. In addition, the Examiners stated they would have to consider the written description of these terms. Applicants' attorneys again expressed the concern that a

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new issue was being raised at such a late stage in prosecution. Nevertheless, Applicants' attorneys proposed cancellation of claim 16 in order to avoid further delay in prosecution, reserving the right to pursue this claim in a continuing application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, enablement

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 16 and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement.

In view of the telephone interview conducted with Examiners Haddad and Chan and the cancellation of claims 44, 45 and 58, Applicants believe the enablement rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Summary

Applicants believe that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in the event that the claims are not found to be in condition for allowance, prior to issuing a further action.

If the Examiner has any questions and believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would prove helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 720-3500 (extension 266).

Respectfully submitted,
Brenner et al., Applicant(s)

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